

Tax Plans Offered Investigators Call For Weeks of Study

Resume of Widely Divergent Views Set Forth by
Prominent Citizens Shows Suggestions Ranging
Between Single Tax and No Levy at All—Re-
port of Hearing Is Voluminous.

Widely divergent views of prominent citizens of Washington—suggestions that run all the way from the single tax to the levying of no taxes whatever in the National Capital, and from proposals to retain the half-and-half principle to demands that it be abolished altogether—are today before the joint Congressional committee named to investigate and report upon the equity of the fiscal relations between the District and Federal Governments.

The hearings before the committee began on October 25 and have continued, practically without interruption, until yesterday. The final arguments of the contending factions are now in and the committee faces the task of going over a voluminous record and weighing each of the many relief plans suggested.

That this process will require several weeks is probable. The members of the committee, Senators Chilton, chairman; Saulsbury and Works, and Congressmen Rainey, Gard and Cooper, hope to have their report ready with the opening of Congress.

RESUME OF SUGGESTIONS.

A resume of the suggestions made by the many local witnesses appearing before the Congressional committee during the past few weeks is as follows:

H. B. F. Macfarland.

Former Commissioner Henry B. F. Macfarland, chairman of the joint citizens' committee:

"The National Capital as such must be first considered above the interests of any individual, but it is not in the interest of the National Capital to add to the tax burden of the comparatively few people living here and thereby check the progress now being made in its development, as the mere threat of such unjust taxation has measurably done. * * * During the period of indefinite appropriations, prior to 1873, the residents here thrice bankrupted themselves in their attempt to do the general task of developing and maintaining the National Capital. * * * We believe continued progress is possible here only under a definite and regular contribution from the United States, which should not be less than one-half, as at present."

Theodore W. Noyes.

Theodore W. Noyes, of the joint citizens' committee:

"The claim that there is here \$744,000,000 worth of taxable property but that only \$300,000,000 is assessed is a fallacy. This claim is based on a valuation made by the inspection of the assessed valuation of other cities and a study of the valuation standards they employ. Under such a valuation the 4,000 taxpayers of Washington, nearly all of them small property owners, crippled and cramped in money making, are required to pay in taxes to sustain the National Capital more than the aggregated taxpayers of New York, Philadelphia and St. Paul pay in municipal taxes. * * * Washington is and has always been poor in taxable resources and has been crippled commercially and industrially by deliberate national policy. Washington is doing its full share now in paying taxes."

A. S. Worthington.

A. S. Worthington, of the joint citizens' committee:

"Because of this city's expansion, Washington residents have already had to pay large taxes. To pay for it all would be a tremendous burden. * * * Opposed to the half-and-half plan is the fact that it would be in position to force the people of the District to pay all the taxes necessary for the District. * * * Plans have been urged to force the people of the District to raise \$25,000,000 from that sort of thing. As Senator Blair Lee said, the protection we have now is that even if the District revenue is matched by a dollar that 'bites' on the Federal Treasury. But Senator Lee said something else, and that is that the tax burden on Kentucky had said that the members of Congress did not care any more for the protests of the citizens of Washington than they did for the barking of a dog in a back yard. It is against that feeling that we want protection."

Herbert J. Browne.

Herbert J. Browne, single taxer and expert of the George subcommittee investigation of 1912:

"It pays to hold land idle in the District. That is why three-fourths of the area of the District today is as naked as when Columbus discovered America. * * * You cannot have a change here without overturning what some persons consider their rights. As soon as Congress decides to withdraw some of the tax burden from the District, the citizens buckling down to do their part, they tried to shoulder as much of the expense as possible on the Federal Government."

W. D. Mackenzie.

W. D. Mackenzie, of the Tax Reform Association:

"The Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade represent the plutocracy of Washington. They want profits, they want to promote the interests of the few at the expense of the masses. * * * Municipal self-government is needed here as a purely local affairs are concerned. * * * There are two methods whereby the fiscal relation between the District and the United States Government may be equitably adjusted: first, by aggregating Federal and municipal expenses, and second, apportioning cost according to the relative value of the property in the District owned by the National Government and by the residents of the District. * * * The present system of taxation and assessment should be reformed in order to lighten the burden of taxation on the small home owner of the District, and especially to prevent any burdensome increase of taxation, if Congress should decide to withdraw some portion of the amount now contributed by the Federal Government."

James Hugh Keeley.

James Hugh Keeley, of the Tax Reform Association:

"The half-and-half plan served well in its day, became a mischief-maker later, and now the time has come when it should be changed. Conditions are different now. Mr. Keeley advocated a reapportionment of municipal and national expenses and a board of commissioners the majority of whom should be chosen

by popular vote. The race question, he said, ought not to interfere with suffrage here."

Dr. A. J. McKelway.

Dr. A. J. McKelway, of the committee of forty:

Briefly advocated the gradual segregation of national and municipal expenses, recommended that city elect its own officials and expend as much money as it thought necessary on purely local improvements."

A. B. Johnson.

A. B. Johnson, single tax lecturer:

Proposed higher taxation of land values in the District and suggested his opposition to half-and-half principle. As an entering wedge to a single tax system in the District he urged gradually increasing tax on land and gradually reducing tax on improvements."

James Kent.

James Kent, architect and builder:

Told the committee he advocated suffrage in the District, even to the extent of electing postmasters. Paid tribute to the initiative, referendum, and recall, and deplored the fact that this is a voteless community. Said he had voted in five different States and always enjoyed the privilege. "There ought to be some sort of educational test if suffrage is granted here," he suggested."

Roy C. Claffin.

Roy C. Claffin, chairman of the District Delegate Association:

Suggested a vote in the District of Columbia on the half-and-half controversy, but urged continuation of the Capital on broad improvement lines, especially as to highways. Opposed single tax arguments which had been presented to committee."

Martin Dodge.

Martin Dodge, former director of highways of the Department of Agriculture:

Said he appeared here as an opponent, but urged continuation of the Capital on broad improvement lines, especially as to highways. Opposed single tax arguments which had been presented to committee."

Arthur P. Davis.

Arthur P. Davis, of Tax Reform Association:

Offered single tax argument, but said the single tax theory should be put into effect gradually as so not to "jar" the District. "My suggestion is," he added, "to increase the burden on the vacant land owner and decrease it on the home owner. This will result in the building of more homes and the general good."

A. S. Trundle.

A. S. Trundle, milk dealer:

"A continued partnership between the Federal Government and the District of Columbia seems to be impossible. There must be a definite separation of some sort."

John H. Adriaens.

John H. Adriaens, attorney:

Urged the levying of taxes on all churches, schools, and foreign embassies and legations. Read the Bible in support of church taxation theory. Advocated also:

Benno M. Siebold.

Benno M. Siebold, introduced as

secretary, lawyer, and philosopher: Decried the constitutionality of Congress to levy direct taxes in the District of Columbia, claiming that when Maryland and Virginia ceded land in order to get a share of the bounty that should be a taxless community. The franchise would not have been surrendered to the Federal Government as the Treasury Department building. It is a part of the Federal family, to be maintained by the Federal Government, and taxation of the residents here to keep up the establishment is illegal, and has been all along."

Oliver P. Newman.

Oliver P. Newman, chairman of the Board of Commissioners:

"Commissioner Brownlow and I be-

JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE AWAITS PRINTED RECORD

The members of the joint Fiscal Relations Committee of the Senate and House are to meet at the call of Chairman Chilton as soon as the testimony taken at the hearings during the last three weeks has been printed. They will meet to consider the testimony, probably about the time Congress convenes. Senator Chilton left Washington for his home last night and it is not known when he will return. It is understood that the committee desires to have a report ready when Congress meets.

How the half-and-half plan should be

abolished. The National Government should pay all of the expenses of the District of Columbia just as it pays all of the expenses of the Agricultural Department, the War Department, the Department of Commerce, and of all other executive departments or branches of the Federal Government. It should pay all bills out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. So much for what the Federal Government ought to do in the District of Columbia.

"Now what should the 35,000 people in the District do? What should the second minor element in the equation do? Take an individual member of that group of 35,000—take a man, John Hobbes, living anywhere in the District of Columbia should pay into the Treasury of the United States a fair and reasonable sum of money for the privilege of protection and civic rights that he enjoys by living in the District of Columbia. All of the John Hobbes in town should pay a reasonable and fair sum of money for the privilege of living here, just as anybody in any city pays for the privileges and advantages of living in that city. In Washington John Hobbes should pay a tax for the privilege of living here."

Louis Brownlow.

Louis Brownlow, District Commissioner:

"The half-and-half plan is purely a legislative fiction. * * * There is not a cent of money in the Treasury that is not accounted for by the National Government and the District of Columbia, which shows or purports to show that there is any such thing as a trust fund or otherwise known as the revenue of the District of Columbia."

Former Senator Blackburn.

Former Senator J. C. S. Blackburn, father of the organic act of 1873:

In supporting the Newman-Brownlow plan, he said: "I believe the partnership between the District and the United States ought to be dissolved. The law of 1873 has stood the test for more than a half-century. It has lasted longer than I thought it would and worked better than I thought it would. United States Government. It does not mean partnership with anyone. It does not mean patronize private insurance companies to insure its buildings against fire."

Charles E. Marshall.

Charles E. Marshall, secretary of the Real Estate Title Insurance Company:

Proposed figures for the above certain property values cited in George report and Brownlow brief. Offered as witness before the joint citizens' committee for this object and not as an opponent or proponent of half-and-half principle."

Major Charles W. Kutz.

Major Charles W. Kutz, Engineer Commissioner:

"I believe the Federal Government should continue to contribute a fixed proportion of the cost of the development of the National Capital. I believe it would be preferable all around to have the Federal Government and the District contribute equal sums rather than have a plan whereby the United States would make up the balance needed between the District and the Federal Government."

Charles C. Lancaster.

Charles C. Lancaster, attorney, taxpayer and member of several citizens' associations:

Criticized Supreme Court for "dogging the issue" in the Newman case brought by home rule committee. Alleged that the Supreme Court for the District was creating "a financial hell here. Opposed the half-and-half plan and urged the National Capital. Protected against 'carpet-bag' rule in District and asked that District officials, clerks and employees to be residents here."

C. B. Hemingway.

C. B. Hemingway, single taxer:

Presented single tax argument and attacked various civic organizations here as unrepresentative and selfish. Assailed the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade did not represent 50 per cent of District residents. The citizens' committee was not scientific. Advocated representation in Congress for the District."

William P. Richards.

William P. Richards, tax assessor:

Defended assessments of his office attacked by Herbert J. Browne and complained of lack of help in assessors' office. Urged annual instead of triennial assessments. Said the present force is "doing the best it can under the circumstances. Agreed with Commissioner Brownlow that the proportion spent by the Federal and District Governments is not exactly one-half each, despite organic act."

S. R. Blanton.

S. R. Blanton, Senate employe and announced representative of a farmers' organization:

Opposed to the half-and-half, but it ought to continue, he suggested, if the alleged tax burden on the vacant land owner and decrease it on the home owner. This will result in the building of more homes and the general good."

William E. Shannon.

William E. Shannon, real estate operator:

Approved of the Brownlow-Newman plan, and suggested: "I fully believe that the half-and-half plan is detrimental to the people and the city of Washington as clearly pointed out by Commissioners Newman and Brownlow."

Harold E. Doyle.

Harold E. Doyle, realty expert:

Blamed Democratic Administration and half-and-half controversy for depression in real estate market. Said he thought the assessment of unsubdivided land in the District it was understood that the values put on property in the George report and the Herbert J. Browne brief."

Thomas C. Bradley.

Thomas C. Bradley, a member of the joint citizens' committee and banker:

Defended the half-and-half principle as equitable and as having promoted the growth of the Capital. Assailed the correctness of the George report and the testimony of Herbert J. Browne. Expounded rigid tax rate for the District and suggested that the

existing rate is fair, although a number

of assessments are high. He added: "The real estate business here is paralyzed and it is largely attributable to the Agricultural agitation. Some of it may be due to the general depression throughout the country. * * * We fear here an increase of taxes. We fear the impression has spread in Congress that we are under assessed here and this impression has been gained on misinformation."

William D. Hoover.

William D. Hoover, banker:

Testified in general regarding property values in the District and said he believed rate here as fair, but said he believed instances of over-assessment and under-assessment would be found. Added it was difficult for a small assessors' office to keep track of fluctuating values under a triennial assessment system."

William McK. Clayton.

William McK. Clayton, of the Federation of Citizens' Associations:

Advanced Board of Commissioners consisting of three members, one elected, two appointed by President, and one assigned from the army. "The half-and-half principle should not be abolished; it would prove detrimental to the District and its residents."

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that District citizens had highminded sense of the threats made in Congress to uproot the present fiscal plan.

H. L. Rust.

H. L. Rust, real estate operator:

Declared the half-and-half plan had been beneficial in every way. Said its abolition might result in Congress failing to make necessary appropriations for the District. Said the question of a surplus of District revenues over Federal appropriations need not cause worry, as that money is needed for improvements."

E. F. Colladay.

E. F. Colladay, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations:

"It would be well to have the half-and-half system fully restored and literally administered. The half-and-half system of taxation has not been carried out here for several years. The law ought to have been lived up to."

Julius Peyer.

Julius Peyer, lawyer and banker:

"We ought to have a corporation here known as the City of Washington, and also some form of local government. The heads of the local government ought to be elected by the people of the District. There is no criticism of the present heads of the District, however."

ROCKVILLE.

At her home near Laytonville, Mrs. Alverda Griffith, aged seventy-seven, wife of Harry Griffith, died on Monday, November 15, at her home.

Besides her husband, the following children survive: Mrs. J. H. Balthus, of Baltimore, and Mrs. Zadoe M. Cooke and Mrs. Julia White, of this county. The funeral took place at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, from the family residence, burial being at Greenhills.

HYATTSVILLE.

The Rev. John E. Fort officiated at the marriage of William Forrest Moore, of Edinburg, and Miss Pearl Estelle Pearce, of Danmarcus.

In the sixth annual field trials of the Montgomery County Fishermen's Association, which were concluded yesterday, the judges awarded prizes as follows: First, silver cup and cash, to J. H. Balthus, of Baltimore; second, silver cup and cash, to Helen H. Balthus, of Baltimore; third, silver cup and cash, to J. H. Balthus, of Baltimore; fourth, cash, to J. H. Balthus, of Baltimore.

HYATTSVILLE.

In his suit for \$5,000 damages against Edward C. Edmonston, a jury in the circuit court awarded 1 cent damages to William E. Vielt, chief of police at Union Station, Washington, D. C., who claimed that Edmonston struck him on the side of the head without provocation, seriously injuring him.

HYATTSVILLE.

Funeral services for Dr. Charles A. Fox, of Beltsville, who died suddenly at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Barron, in Washington, took place yesterday afternoon from St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Beltsville.

HYATTSVILLE.

District No. 3, of the Prince George County Sunday School Association, comprised of the schools located in Riverdale, College Park, Bryn Mawr, Branchville, and Beltsville, will hold an institute at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Beltsville. The topic to be considered will be "Secondary and Evangelical Work."

HYATTSVILLE.

The Neighborhood Club will be entertained this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Percival Melbourne.

HYATTSVILLE.

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Brown are spending several weeks with relatives in Danmarcus, Va.

HYATTSVILLE.

Miss H. Logan, who has been visiting friends and relatives here, has returned to her home in Atlanta.